

attempt to tell you what a good time I had with them. I confess I am simply charmed with the Irish, so far as I know them.

The scenery of Killarney is a dream of beauty. I can't compare it to Ambleside scenery, they are so totally different, and yet resemble each other. Everything is on such a small scale that the tourist is enabled to comprehend the surroundings. The lakes are not big, but dotted with fairy islands, with which the mountains, covered with woods, harmonize perfectly. May I advise those who have not been to Killarney and who want to go to some new place, just to spend a week or so there! The south coast is very wild and rocky, but most beautiful, and the expanse of the Atlantic is superb.

I came up to Belfast in June, and I was afraid I should feel very much in want of beautiful scenery, after the beauties of the South, but my fears were unfounded, I'm glad to say. This northern scenery is of a totally different character, it is far grander, though perhaps not quite so picturesque.

Belfast Lough is lovely and stands very well with Cave Hill as a background. The view from Cave Hill is splendid! The Lough lies at the foot, across the Lough is the pretty town of Holywood, then comes Strangford Lough, and beyond that the sea. Scotland and the Isle of Man can be distinctly seen from the Hill. To the West lies the grandest of British Lakes, Lough Neagh, looking like another sea, to the South lie the beautiful Mourne mountains. Life is totally different up here to what it is in the South. There is no more play! Instead, Life means Work! Belfast is a very enterprising town, and rapidly increasing; everyone has an eye to business! It is much more modern than the South. The Scotch element is easily to be seen, but I must say I prefer the Southern to the Northern people; but the hospitality of both prevents any uncharitable thoughts.

I think I would rather head this "A letter from Paddyland," as I feel I have fallen far short of relating the customs of this country.

With my humble apologies for this very inferior contribution, I beg to remain an enthusiastic member of the O.S.A.

A. M. Y.

LETTER FROM NEW VICE-PRESIDENT.

Miss Mason thinks the Students would like to see the following letter from their new Vice-President:—

HOLLY LODGE,
CAMPDEN HILL, W.

MY DEAR MISS MASON,—

During my pleasant visit to Scale How in June, you asked me to write you a letter for your young folk, embodying a few words of wise counsel I had had in my own youth from kind friends and teachers, and also some little helps to the art of living with others, which I wish I had had brought before me in my early days, but which I have had to find out through, perhaps, some sorrowful experience.

One of the first things I can remember hearing Mrs. Gaskell saying (I lived hard by her house in my young married days) to her own daughters, myself, and one or two other young people gathered around her was: Never to lose an opportunity of seeing any object of interest which lay in our path: for instance, a beautiful ruin, or one of our English or other Cathedrals, or the house of any famous man, or, indeed, any sight which offered.

I have often noted since, in myself and others, an indifference or an indolence, or a want of imagination, which has come between us and one of these pleasures, and I have only found out in late middle life how wise was the counsel, and how much I have missed for want of always following it. One reason, I think, for seeing and enjoying whatever comes in one's way is the material for pleasant converse which it stores up in one's memory, and it is this variety of experience, and this fact of having touched on so many sides of life, which heightens our power of sympathy, and makes us able to contribute so much more to other people's pleasure, and to their deeper and higher life, than we could if we had not ourselves hailed and embraced these enrichments of our own nature.

Another bit of knowledge I would like to share with you is: that it is so much better at the first view of anything, or at the

first suggestion from anybody, to see the best side of it, to appreciate first and to criticise after. It is often a mere habit we get into of seeing the weak side of a proposition first, and then gradually finding out there was more in it of good, and beauty, and excellence (as the case may be) than we had at first perceived. It is so discouraging if one makes a plan, or proposes a course of action, to have cold water thrown on it: so damaging for its first reception to be adverse, whereas, if one had had a little sympathy about it at first and criticism after, one could bear the latter so much better—and no after sympathy or co-operation seems to make up for the first damping words on our efforts or our enthusiasm!

One thing in regard to living with others also dawned upon me rather late in life, and I note with a pleasant appreciation the result of my few days' visit to Scale How, that it is *not* often a shortcoming of the young in the present day, and I need therefore hardly dwell upon it: it is that one ought always to try and bear one's part, to fill one's place in the social circle,—first and foremost in our home-life, where I doubt if we all of us, always, take as much pains as we might to make others happy by those little acts, those few words, which are so much yet which seem so little. To be a sympathetic listener is as much needed as to be a good talker. Often, I think, this hanging back and reticence in the young arises from modesty, and from a want of realization in the young that their elders do care to hear their views on the topics under discussion. A very distinguished Oxford tutor once complained to me of the want of conversational power in some young University women he had met, saying "They don't even ask questions!" But in your happy little circle this constraint and deadness does not find a place, and I only note it down as one of the things to be lamented which existed in my own young days.

I have tried with some reluctance to carry out your wish, dear Miss Mason, but I feel very strongly it is but a poor contribution, and was hardly worth the writing down. Still you see I have caught the impulse which rules in your midst to follow out every wish, spoken or unspoken, of the Mother who reigns so happily over her "Bairns," and I hope she will graciously accept the little offering in the spirit it is rendered.

Yours with grateful regard,

EMMA WINKWORTH.

EDITORIAL.

MY DEAR FELLOW-STUDENTS,

At the end of November I spent two or three days at Ambleside, and so had a chance of talking over many things with Miss Mason and the present students.

Miss Mason sends her love and New Year wishes to all members of our Association; she would have written herself, but is far from strong now, and is not allowed to do more work than is absolutely necessary.

She asks me to say, with her love, that she considers that those who forego their membership with the Association in some measure lapse in their loyalty to the House of Education and its founder.

The present seniors are most enthusiastic students, and I hope they will bring much new life into our Association. All who are leaving at Christmas have already joined.

We had a discussion on the subject of the subscriptions, and came to the conclusion that it would be better to make them payable in December than in June, as the out-going students leave at Christmas; and it causes much confusion if some pay in December and some in June. This year, will all present students send 1/6 to their Committee Members in June, to complete their subscription for 1899, then begin afresh next December with the regular annual subscription of 3/-?

I have been asked by two or three of the Committee to urge upon members the punctual payment of subscriptions; if members have to be reminded each year, it entails much work and expense on the Committee which might be avoided if each would take her own part.

The present students are very anxious that we should try to arrange a General Students' Meeting. It has been suggested that the meeting should be held at Ambleside next Easter. It certainly would be delightful to meet there, but, looking at it from a business point of view, I think it would be more practicable and more helpful to arrange a meeting during the time of the Conference. Those of us who have attended the Conferences can bear testimony